Please replace claims 40-41 and 43-46 as follows:

40. In a network system having a server, the method of registering in the server a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a second identifier for a communicating party, comprising the steps of:

receiving an interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first identifier;

determining a corresponding second identifier is not registered in the server;

transferring the interrogation request to a plurality of terminals which may accommodate the communicating party,

receiving an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and a second identifier which corresponds to the communicating party identified by the first identifier, in response to the interrogation request; and

registering a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which is included in the answer.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein the corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier is registered in a vacancy which has been formed by deleting an entry which has a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a second

identifier.

43. The method according to claim 40, wherein the system includes a switch or exchange and wherein the transferring step includes:

a step in which the switch or exchange connects the server with a plurality of terminals by PVCs (permanent virtual channels);

a step in which, when the interrogation request, in the form of a cell having a predetermined virtual channel identifier, is entered from the server, the switch or exchange appends tag information indicating a terminal group to the cell, performs cell copying based on the tag information indicating the terminal group, and transfers the cell to terminals of the terminal group.

44. The method according to claim 40, wherein the system includes a switch or exchange and wherein the transferring step includes:

a step in which the switch or exchange connects the server with a plurality of terminals by PVCs (permanent virtual channels) and divides the plurality of terminals into a plurality of groups;

a step in which, when the interrogation request in the form of a cell is entered from the server, the switch or exchange performs cell copying, whereby the interrogation request cell is

transferred in a first group;

a step in which the server performs monitoring to determine whether a prescribed terminal has answered with its own identifier within a set period of time;

a step in which the server sends the interrogation request cell to all terminals of the next group when no terminal answers with its own identifier within the set period of time; and

a step in which the server transfers the interrogation request while successively changing the group until a prescribed terminal answers with its own identifier.

45. The method according to the claim 40, further comprising a step in which, when the server receives the answer including the second identifier and the second value from the one of the plurality of terminals, the server registers the corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier in place of a memory in the server designated by an index value which is calculated based on a value of the first identifier or the second identifier.

46. The method according to claim 40, further comprising a step in which the server periodically receives an interrogation request including a second identifier and a second value indicative of an answer from each terminal of the plurality of terminals, whereby the corresponding relationship between the first identifier of its own terminal and the second identifier is kept in a server.

Please add the following new claims:

58. In a network system including communicating parties accommodated by terminals, a method of registering a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a second identifier for a communicating party, comprising the steps of:

when a communication request is issued, determining, in a terminal accommodating an originating party, whether a second identifier for another communicating party is registered;

sending to a server an interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first identifier of the other communicating party when the second identifier is not registered in the terminal;

transferring, by the server, the interrogation request to a plurality of terminals which may accommodate the other communicating party when the second identifier corresponding to the first identifier is not registered in the server;

receiving, at the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and the second identifier which corresponds to the other communicating party identified by the first identifier in response to the interrogation request;

sending the answer to the terminal accommodating the originating party; and

registering, in the terminal accommodating the originating party, a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which is included in the answer.

59. The method of claim 58 wherein the receiving step further includes:

registering, in the server, the corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which is included in the answer

60. The method of claim 58 wherein when the second identifier corresponding to the first identifier is registered in the server, the server responds to the interrogation request by sending the answer to the terminal accommodating the originating party.

61. The method of claim 58 wherein the plurality of terminals are a plurality of ATM terminals.

62. The method of claim 58 wherein the first identifier is a protocol address.

63. The method of claim 58 wherein the second identifier is a terminal address.

64. The method of claim 40 wherein the plurality of terminals are a plurality of ATM terminals.

65. The method of claim 40 wherein the first identifier is a protocol address.

66. The method of claim 40 wherein the second identifier is a terminal address.

67. A network identifier resolution system equipped with a plurality of terminals, a switch or exchange which accommodates each terminal of a plurality of terminals and a server, wherein

each terminal of the plurality of terminals comprising:

a processor that receives a communication request message, determines a first identifier from the communication request message, checks a local storage area for a corresponding

second identifier, and when a second identifier is not registered, creates an interrogation request message which includes a first value indicative of a request and the first identifier, and

a network interface unit that sends to the server the interrogation request message and receives answers and interrogation request messages from the server;

the server comprising:

a processor that receives the interrogation request message, checks a storage area for a corresponding second identifier, and when a second identifier is not registered, forwards the interrogation request;

network interface unit for transferring the interrogation request message including the first value indicative of the request and the first identifier to a plurality of terminals, and receiving, in response to the interrogation request message, an answer including a second identifier corresponding to the first identifier from one of the plurality of terminals; and

the storage area for registering a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which has been included in the answer.

68. The method of claim 67 wherein a terminal of the plurality of terminals is a plurality of ATM terminals.

69. The method of claim 67 wherein the first identifier is a protocol address.

70. The method of claim 67 wherein the second identifier is a terminal address.